

Approved 10.29.14

TOWN OF WENHAM

Community Preservation Committee
Meeting of Monday, October 6, 2014
Town Hall, 138 Main Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30 A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Committee members, a meeting of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) was held on OCTOBER 6, 2014 at 7 PM in the second floor meeting room.

With a quorum present, Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Committee Present: At-Large Members: Harriet Davis; Patrick Waddell, Clerk; Kennon Anderson (left 7:20 PM) Tom Starr; Town Representatives: Arthur Burt, Wenham Housing Authority; Leo Maestranzi, Conservation Commission (arrived 7:23 PM); Virginia Rogers, Planning Board; Barbara Locke, Historic District Commission.

Not Present: Dennis Curran, Joint Recreation Department

Also present: Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary

Public Information:

Agenda

Minutes –September 17, 2014

The Chair took the agenda out of order citing some members needed to leave by a specific time.

Meeting Schedule

There was a general discussion on the preferred dates to set for a regular meeting. The CPC had previously agreed to meet on the first Monday of each month, however, it was the consensus of the CPC to meet as needed according to the majority of the members availability. If the first floor Selectmen's meeting room is not available, the Chairman will try to schedule Burnham Hall in the Wenham Museum; the preferred meeting time was 7 PM.

Minutes – September 17, 2014

The meeting minutes of September 17, 2014 were held for further review and editing. No action was taken.

Stuart Saginor's Presentation on the Community Preservation Act (CPA) - Review

The CPC talked about the most important sections of the CPA presentation, in particular the updates to the CPA and those most applicable to Wenham at this time such as affordable housing, open space, and financial components. The CPC talked in detail of how best to use a coordinator to write the article for the Town Meeting Warrant to include the specific details of exactly how the CPA funding is being recommended by the CPC to be applied to those specific areas as allowed by the CPA.

Chairman Davis observed that Lucy Sprague from the Chronicle was present. The Chronicle will be running a series of articles in an effort to raise community awareness and the benefits of the CPA. It was agreed that the Chronicle would start with a review of the past CPA funded projects, and how the CPA has saved tax payers money i.e. paying the Town Hall renovation debt, and funded projects that otherwise may not have been done i.e. the Town Clerk's historical record preservation. Ms. Sprague noted the Chronicle is no longer considered newspaper for notification, but she would include the date(s) of the upcoming meetings/hearings as best she could.

Hearing Date

Ms. Rogers explained the timeline leading up to the town meeting, stressing the importance that the first public hearing for town board/ committees to present anticipated requests for the 2015 CPA funds be scheduled as soon as possible. She went on to recommend the deadline for the application submittal is no later than mid January 2015, and that the Committee work backwards from mid January and prepare a timeline.

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David Geikie, Planning Board Chair was recognized by Ms. Davis. He outlined the lengthy process of an article to be approved for the town meeting warrant and reiterated the importance to create a calendar of important CPC dates. He strongly recommended the CPC adopt a policy not to vote on an application during the same meeting as it is presented.

A discussion followed regarding potential dates for an initial public hearing, the agenda, and the need for a "barometer" from the citizens on what is considered important to the community. At this time, the CPC anticipated the community pool and affordable housing to be a top priority.

It was the consensus of the CPC that the Chair posts the hearing for Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at 7 PM in Town Hall or Burnham Hall and this hearing be on cable television. The Town Administrator will be asked to invite the Department Heads and announce the hearing at the Board of Selectmen Meeting. Each CPC representative will speak to his/her respective board/committee. Mr. Burt will include a general overview of what Chapter 40B projects are and how they can benefit the town. Ms. Rogers will get the CPA financial records from the Finance Director to include this information in the presentation.

There was a side discussion if involving or seeking advice from the local non profit open space groups would benefit the Town in being proactive on attaining open space.

With the annual town meeting scheduled for April 11, 2015, CPA Applications to the CPC will be due by Friday, January 9, 2015. The CPC will vote the applications the week of February 23, 2015.

Chairman Davis will put the voting policy on a meeting agenda in January for consideration.

A general discussion ensued to update the new members on the past CPA distributions. It was noted that all recipients of CPA funding must give an update on what CPA funds were spent. In 2014, Town Meeting approved the following:

Town Hall debt \$163,740; Town Hall record preservation: \$10,000; Rail trail kiosk matching funds: \$750; Community Preservation Committee administration fees: \$8,000

The Town Hall bond is through 2026 and the annual payment goes down slightly each year. The Committee noted that total bonding (related to CPA funds) is limited to what is raised in taxes less the 10% reserved for each of Open Space, Historic Preservation, and Affordable Housing. Bonding also may not include the state's anticipated matching funds. The CPA surcharge in Wenham, on average, raises \$300,000 plus matching funds from the state that last year were 72%.

Administrative Issues

Information regarding the CPA on the Town's web site needs to be updated including the posting of the October 29, 2014 hearing, links to the CPA information and the CPA application. The Chair will arrange for these updates to be made.

New Business

There was none.

Adjournment

The Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:18

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley
10.7.14